

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The 1971 Annual Meeting on Dauphin Island, Alabama is now history, and the 400+ persons who attended would surely agree that it was one of the most interesting meetings in recent years. The southern hospitality was warm indeed, and the Program Committee, chaired by Vice-President Kenneth Parkes, had arranged an outstanding series of papers. On Saturday morning the papers session was devoted to a symposium on Bird Migration in the Region of the Gulf of Mexico organized by George Lowery. On Saturday afternoon the birds put on their own demonstration of trans-Gulf migration as a considerable precipitation of grounded migrants occurred, just as had been predicted in the advance advertising of the meeting. As might be expected with such a concentration of ornithologists a species was turned up that constituted a new addition to the Alabama list.

The Meeting closed with the election of a new slate of officers whose names appear on the inside front cover.

At the Annual Banquet the following prizes and awards for 1971 were announced. The prizes donated by Ernest P. Edwards, \$150 for the best paper appearing in *The Wilson Bulletin* in 1970: William J. Maher, The Pomarine Jaeger as a Brown Lemming predator in northern Alaska; and \$50 for the second best paper in the *Bulletin* in 1970, John P. Ryder, A possible factor in the evolution of clutch size in the Ross' Goose; the Wilson Prize for the best paper given at the Annual Meeting by a person not holding a doctoral degree: Kenneth P. Able, The flight directions of autumn nocturnal migrants on the Louisiana Coast; the Margaret M. Nice Research Award for persons not connected with an institution of higher learning: T. A. Beckett III for his work on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker; and The Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Award to Flash Gibson, Oregon State University, for his work on American Avocets.

The Presidential Address of retiring President William W. H. Gunn was devoted to an analysis of the interesting results of the questionnaire recently circulated to the membership. It is hoped that some of these results can be published in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.

We have learned of the recent death of Miss Mildred Stewart, a longtime member and faithful participant in Annual Meetings, who for several years carried out the tedious and exacting task of preparing the annual index for the *Bulletin*.

The Asa Wright Nature Centre, a 200 acre cocoa-coffee-citrus estate at an elevation of 1,200 feet in the Northern Range of Trinidad, largely surrounded by government forests, was established to provide a facility for the enjoyment and study of natural history and as a wildlife sanctuary (particularly for the Oilbird colony on the property).

About 25 guests can be accommodated at rates from \$14. to \$17. per person per day with meals. Special rates may be arranged for students or for naturalists on extended stay for study purposes. For further information and/or reservations write *air mail* to: The Manager, The Asa Wright Nature Centre, G. P. O. Box No. 10, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

Aside from the very rich flora and fauna of the immediate area, the Centre provides a reasonably comfortable operating base for field work in other habitats on the island.